

SKIN DISEASES RESEARCH CENTERS (SDRC)

NIH GUIDE - Vol 17, No. 3, January 22, 1988

RFA AVAILABLE: 88-AR-1

P.T. 34; K.W.

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases

Application Receipt Date: March 25, 1988

BACKGROUND:

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) announces a national competition for research core centers (P30) in skin diseases. The Skin Diseases Research Centers (SDRCs) will provide resources for a number of established, currently funded investigators, often from different disciplines, to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to a common research problem in skin diseases and to assure greater productivity than from the sum of the separate projects.

RESEARCH GOALS AND SCOPE

Research in skin diseases is at a stage where a number of areas are making broad advances that can be effectively fostered by research core centers.

Examples of these areas include, but are not limited to:

- stratum corneum: biochemistry, structure, function
- epidermis: differentiation, keratinization, cellular constituents
- dermal-epidermal junction: structure, functions, diseases
- skin as an immunological organ
- autoimmune skin diseases
- dermis: structural components, diseases

The choice of research problem upon which the SDRC would focus is made by the principal and collaborating currently funded investigators. Overall, it is expected that the SDRCs will conduct and amplify research efforts of the Skin Diseases Program of NIAMS as recommended by the research community.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

The Research Core Center Grant (P30) is a mechanism for integrating, coordinating and fostering the interdisciplinary cooperation of a group of established investigators conducting programs of active, high-quality research which relate to a common theme. The Research Core Center grant provides support for:

1. Core resources and facilities to be used by individually-supported project grantees in order to coordinate their activities. This support may include personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and facilities.
2. Limited funds for development and feasibility studies.
3. Program enrichment activities.

The NIAMS intends to fund two SDRCs in FY88, subject to the availability of resources, each with a yearly direct cost budget of about \$250,000-300,000. The funding period is five years.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applicants must contact NIAMS staff for the detailed guidelines for the SDRC grant application. Letters of Intent are strongly encouraged. Applications should be submitted on Form PHS-398 (Rev. 9/86) which is available in the institution's collaborative research or business office. The phrase "RFA 88-AR-1, Skin Diseases Research Center" should be typed on line 2 of the first page of the application. Applications should be submitted to the Division of Research Grants. At the same time, informational copies should be sent to the NIAMS Review Branch which will review the applications.

All PHS and NIH grant policies governing research project grants apply to applications received in response to this Request For Applications.

DEADLINES

Letter of Intent receipt date	February 12, 1988
Application receipt date	March 25, 1988
Ad Hoc Study Section review	June, 1988
NIAMS Advisory Council Review	September, 1988
Anticipated award date	September 30, 1988

Further information on the program, including the guidelines for the Skin Diseases Research Centers may be obtained from:

Julia B. Freeman, Ph.D.
Director, Centers Programs
National Institute of Arthritis and
Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 403
Bethesda, MD 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7495

TEXT OF THE FULL RFA FOLLOWS:

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS: RFA

SKIN DISEASES RESEARCH CENTERS (SDRC)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ARTHRITIS AND MUSCULOSKELETAL AND SKIN DISEASES

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: February 12, 1988
Application Receipt Date: March 25, 1988

BACKGROUND:

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) announces a national competition to encourage submission of applications for research core centers (P30) in skin diseases. The Skin Diseases Research Centers (SDRCs) will provide resources for a number of established, currently funded investigators, often from different disciplines, to adopt a multidisciplinary approach to a common research problem in skin diseases and to assure greater productivity than from the sum of the separate projects.

RESEARCH GOALS AND SCOPE

Research in skin diseases is at a stage where a number of areas are making broad advances that can be effectively fostered by research core centers. Examples of these areas include, but are not limited to:

- stratum corneum: biochemistry, structure, function
- epidermis: differentiation, keratinization, cellular constituents
- dermal-epidermal junction: structure, functions, diseases
- skin as an immunological organ
- autoimmune skin diseases
- dermis: structural components, diseases

The choice of research problem upon which the SDRC would focus is made by the principal and collaborating currently funded investigators. Overall, it is expected that the SDRCs will conduct and amplify research efforts of the Skin Diseases Program of NIAMS as recommended by the research community.

The SDRCs will be research core centers. The research core center grant provides support for:

1. Core resources and facilities to be used by individually-supported project grantees in order to coordinate their activities. This support may include personnel, equipment, supplies, services, and facilities.
2. Limited funds for development and feasibility studies.
3. Program enrichment activities.

A SDRC should be an identifiable organizational unit within a university-affiliated medical center. An administrative core should be proposed to coordinate the Center and administer the program enrichment activities. One or more research cores may be proposed. A research core is a facility shared by two or more Center Investigators that enables them to conduct their independently funded individual research projects more efficiently and/or more effectively. Cores generally fall into one of four categories: (1) provision of a technology that lends itself to automation or preparation in large batches (e.g. radioimmune assays and tissue culture); (2) complex instrumentation (e.g. electron microscopy); (3) animal preparation and care; and (4) service and training (e.g. molecular biology, biostatistics).

A development and feasibility study program provides modest research support for a limited time (3 years or less) to enable eligible investigators to explore the feasibility of a skin diseases-related concept and amass sufficient data to pursue it through other funding mechanisms. Eligible investigators include (1) new investigators without current or past NIH research project support (R01, R29, P01) as a principal investigator; (2) established, supported investigators with no previous work in skin diseases or related areas who are willing to test the applicability of their expertise on a skin diseases-related problem; and (3) established investigators in skin diseases or related areas with a proposal for testing the feasibility of a new or innovative idea that is skin diseases-related but represents a clear and distinct departure from the investigator's ongoing research interest.

MECHANISM OF SUPPORT

The Research Core Center Grant (P30) will be used for the SDRCs. The P30 grant is a mechanism for integrating, coordinating and fostering the interdisciplinary cooperation of a group of established investigators conducting programs of active, high-quality research which relate to a common theme and for stimulating new research. Applications for noncompeting renewal will have specific, additional reporting requirements to document progress in the larger aims of the Center.

The NIAMS intends to fund 2 SDRCs in FY88, subject to the availability of resources, each with a yearly direct cost budget of about \$250,000-300,000. The award of grants pursuant to this RFA

is contingent upon the receipt of appropriate funds for this purpose. The funding period is five years and may be renewable on a competitive basis. There have been no funds specifically reserved for renewals at this time.

REVIEW PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

All applications submitted in response to the RFA will first be reviewed by staff to assure that they are responsive to the RFA. Applications that are received after the March 25, 1988, receipt date or that are otherwise unresponsive to the major criteria of the RFA, will be returned to the applicant. Accepted applications will be reviewed for scientific and technical merit by an initial review group which will be convened solely to review these applications. It is unlikely that a site visit will be conducted. Each proposal should therefore be complete in itself and be prepared as if no site visit is expected.

Factors to be considered in evaluation of the scientific merit of each application will include an evaluation of the independently funded biomedical research base, the appropriateness of the proposed cores, the quality of the proposed development and feasibility studies and their proposed management. Evaluation of the biomedical research base will encompass the record of research training and the institution's commitment to the Center program.

Following assessment by the initial review group, applications will be evaluated by the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Advisory Council.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applicants must request the detailed guidelines for the SDRC grant application from:

Julia B. Freeman, Ph.D.
Director, Centers Programs
National Institute of Arthritis and
Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Westwood Building, Room 403
Bethesda, MD 20892
Telephone: (301) 496-7495

Applications must follow the SDRC guidelines to be accepted for review. Letters of Intent are strongly encouraged as soon as possible and should include a brief description of the research areas and cores. Applications should be submitted on Form PHS-398 (Rev. 9/86) which is available in the institution's collaborative research or business office. The phrase "RFA 88-AR-1, Skin Diseases Research Center" should be typed on line 2 of the first page of the application. The RFA label available in the 9/86 revision of Application Form 398 must be affixed to the bottom of the face page.

Failure to use this label could result in delayed processing of the application such that it may not reach the review committee in time for review.

The receipt date for an original and four copies of the complete application is on or before March 25, 1988. Applications should be sent to:

Division of Research Grants
National Institutes of Health
Westwood Building, Room 240
5333 Westbard Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20892

In addition, two informational copies should be sent under separate cover to:

Dr. Tommy Broadwater
Chief, Scientific Review Branch

National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
Extramural Programs
Westwood Building, Room 401
Bethesda, MD 20892

The NIAMS Review Branch will review the applications during the summer of 1988. Secondary review will be by the September 1988, meeting of the National Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases Council. Earliest possible funding will be in September, 1988.

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, No. 13.846. Grants are awarded under the authority of the Public Health Service Act, Section 301 (42 USC 241) and administered under PHS grant policies and Federal Regulations, most specifically at 42 CFR Part 52 and 45 CFR Part 74. This program is not subject to review by a Health Systems Agency.